

## Message Text

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50

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 DODE-00 AID-20

EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00

SIL-01 FPC-01 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIE-00

IGA-02 L-03 RSR-01 PM-09 /135 W  
----- 009904

O 071820 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3699

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO NIACT IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 1220

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG CS

SUBJECT: GOCR REQUEST FOR POWER BARGES

REFERENCE: SAN JOSE 1219

1. I HAVE RECEIVED CALL FROM DR. JAIME GUTIERREZ, ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT, WHO STATED HE WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESIDENT TO ASK IF USWOULD ASSIST IN CURRENT ENERGY EMERGENCY. GUTIERREZ SAID HE WOULD HAVE MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS CALL ME RE SPECIFIC NEEDS. WHILE I HAVE NOT RECEIVED SUCH A CALL AS YET, I EXPECT TO SHORTLY. SINCE MINISTERS REPORTED TO PRESS ( AND THIS REPORTED IN ALL PAPERS TODAY) THAT PRESIDENT WOULD SEEK POWER BARGES FROM USG ( SEE REFTEL), I CONSIDER THAT IN EFFECT WE HAVE A QUERY AS TO WHETHER WE CAN SUPPLY A POWER BARGE ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS.

2. GENERAL MANAGER ICE HAD PRIVATELY INFORMED EMBASSY YESTERDAY THAT PRESENT RATIONED LOAD OF NATIONAL POWER GRID IS ONE MILLION KWH EVERY 24 HOURS. THIS CONTRASTS  
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WITH NORMAL REQUIREMENT OF THREE MILLION KWH. NATIONAL GRID DOES NOT INCLUDE LIMON, GUANACASTE, IBERIA, AND SAN ISIDRO DEL GENERAL, WHICH ARE SERVED BY SEPARATE DIESEL GENERATORS. ICE MANAGER HAS ASSURED EMBASSY THAT IT WOULD BE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE TO HOOK UP POWER BARGE TO NATIONAL GRID AT PUNTARENAS.

3. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT PANAMA CANAL COMPANY HAS TWO POWER BARGES IN OR NEAR CANAL ZONE WHICH CAN DELIVER TEN AND TWENTY- TWO MEGAWATTS RESPECTIVELY. IT SEEMS APPARENT THAT ALTERNATIVE SOURCES, INCLUDING MOBILE POWER UNITS FROM PRATT WHITNEY AND POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL SALES ( EMBTELS 1217 AND 1218) LIKELY TAKE SOME TIME TO ORCHESTRATE AND DELIVER.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ( A) INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER POWER BARGE OR SHIP IS AVAILABLE FROM PANAMA OR ANY OTHER SOURCE, AND HOW SOON AND ( B) IF AVAILABLE, AUTHORITY TO OFFER IT TO GOCR ON EMERGENCY BASIS. I URGE THAT WE BE AS RESPONSIVE AS WE CAN. THIS CRISIS IS A MATTER OF CONSUMING PUBLIC INTEREST, AND THE GAIN TO ON- GOING US INTEREST AND INFLUENCE IN COSTA RICA WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM BEING RESPONSIVE IN THIS EMERGENCY NEED HARDLY BE ELABORATED HERE.  
VAKY

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 92  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 SAN JOSE 1219  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971205  
**Subject:** GOCR REQUEST FOR POWER BARGES  
**TAGS:** ENRG, CS  
**To:** ARA  
PANAMA  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
USCINCSO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005